

Contemporary Indian Artist OWAIS HUSAIN exhibits his work at Bad RagARTZ - the 7th Swiss Triennial Festival of Sculpture

May 22, 2018: Contemporary Indian artist **Owais Husain** is showcasing a sculptural video installation piece - *Empires of Memory* - at **Bad RagARTZ - the 7th Swiss Triennial Festival of Sculpture** taking place in the resort town of Bad Ragaz, Switzerland and Vaduz, Principality of Liechtenstein until 4th November 2018.



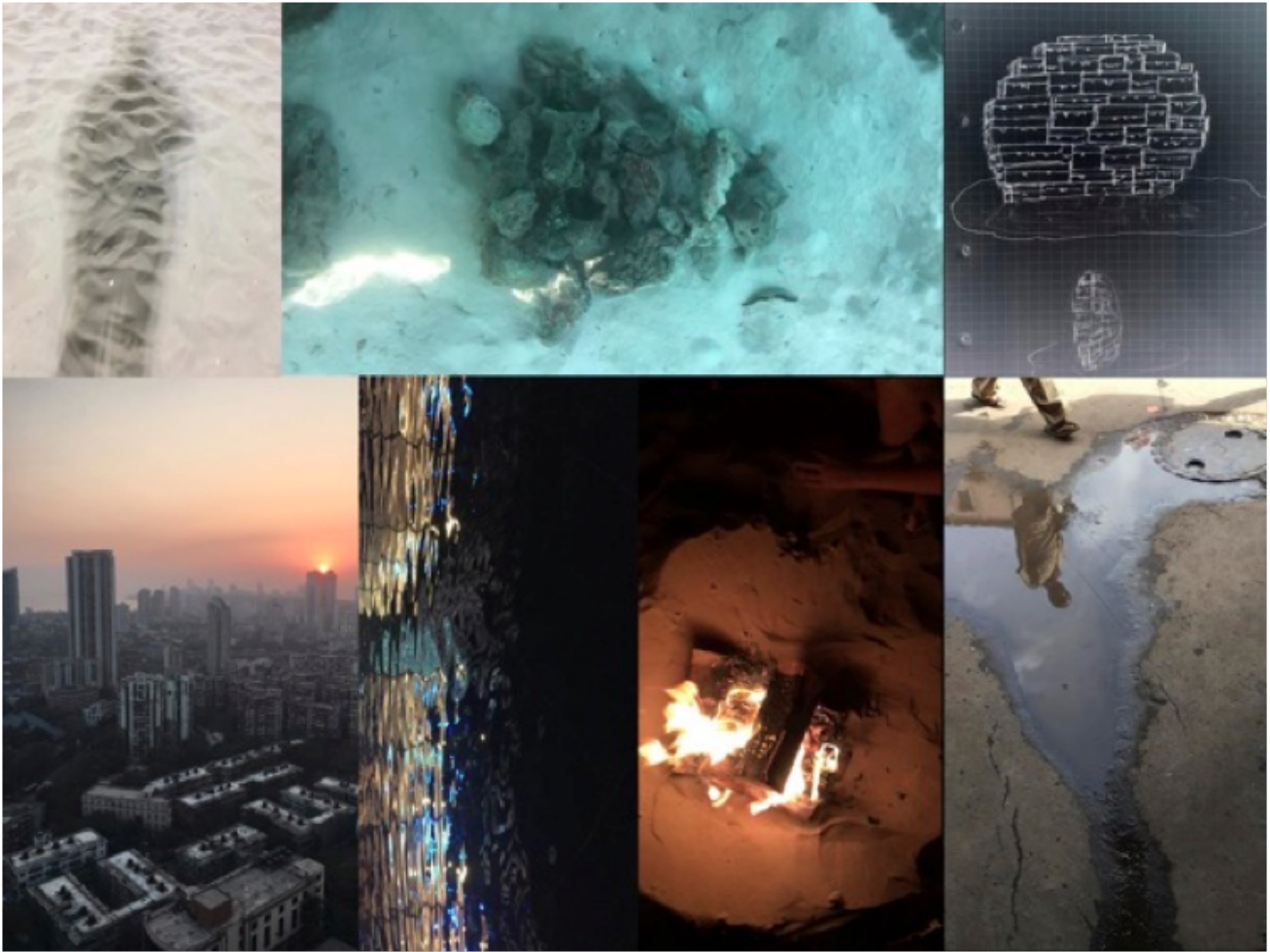
Empires of Memory by Owais Husain at Bad RagARTZ 2018, Switzerland

Empires of Memory was previously exhibited at Vida Downtown Dubai for Art Week Dubai 2017. This 15 ft multi-media installation combines seven steel trunks, in a vertical stack mounted on two platforms of mirrored acrylic. The trunks carry LED screens, each playing videos with configurations of images of nature and figures that reflect Husain's meditation on the visual manifestation of memory and the way in which cultural hierarchies influence this. Presented as an outdoor installation for the Triennial, this stunning work opens up new avenues of perception and interpretation into a world of aesthetic memory seen through Husain's abstract videos. It serves as a powerful commentary on identity, displacement, and memory - themes which Husain, as a diaspora artist, is intimately familiar with.

The on-going Triennial with its impressive selection of 77 international artists from 17 countries serves as a fitting backdrop to Husain's work that has a universal resonance.

"Most of my works are all about identity and displacement. We live in a very transient but interesting world that is shrinking in so many ways in terms of communication and access to information. As an artist I think it is most

exciting to be living in these times because the role of an artist is to find and create maps of relevance and contexts for his or her time.” - **Owais Husain**



Video still from *Empires of Memory*. Image courtesy of Owais Husain

NOTES TO EDITORS

Owais Husain website: www.owaishusain.com

Bad RagARTZ website: <http://www.badragartz.ch>

Instagram: @badragartz

Facebook: @badragartz

Exhibition dates: till 4 November

About the artist



Husain was born in 1967 in Mumbai and graduated with his Fine Arts degree from Sir J.J School of Art in 1990. His work has been featured in numerous group and solo exhibits throughout galleries and museums throughout the world, and he continues to participate in a variety of public art projects, art fairs and film festivals. Owais Husain currently lives and works in Dubai.

He has exhibited in numerous group and solo shows at galleries and museums across India including the National Museum of Art and Tao Gallery, Mumbai (1995 – 2010), Vadehra Gallery, New

Delhi (1995 -1998), Gallery 88 Calcutta (2000), and Sakshi Gallery Bangalore (1994); and internationally at the Tate Modern, London (2001), Aicon Gallery New York (2006), the W Foundation, Seoul (2014), the Burj Khalifa and Capsule Arts, Dubai (2013, 2015), the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore (2016), Gazelli Art House at Abu Dhabi Art (2016) and at India Art Fair with the Floodlight Foundation (2017). Husain's has most recently exhibited work at START Doha and London, Vida Downtown (Dubai), and Tashkeel Arts Centre and the Farjam Collection in Dubai.

Additionally, Husain has directed and produced several feature length Hindi films, 2000-2007, and an experimental music track for the Abu Dhabi Festival of Thinkers in 2009. His films have been screened at the London International Film Festival (2000), the Berlin Film Biennale (2001), the Cannes Film Festival and Melbourne International Film Festival (2004), the Tribeca International Film Festival, Doha (2010), and the V&A Museum, London (2014).

About Bad RagARTZ - The 7th Swiss Triennial Festival of Sculpture

The 7th Swiss Triennial Festival of Sculpture, called Bad RagARTz, is an international cultural highlight for the Sargans region and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Opening in May and carrying on through till November, this festival witnesses the transformation of the resort town of Bad Ragaz, turning it into Europe's largest sculpture park with international artists from 17 countries exhibiting their work.

This internationally renowned sculpture festival has had five previous editions, most recently in 2015. With no entry fee, this extraordinary congregation art is open to all and saw an estimate 400,000 visitors in its last edition. The dramatic setting in the midst of nature makes this festival a truly unique art experience.

Website: <http://www.badragartz.ch>